

Please amend Claims 1, 8, 12, 13, 16, and 18 to read:

- D1
1. (Twice Amended) A process for producing branched fatty acids, comprising :
- a. introducing a recombinant nucleic acid coding for a methyl transferase into a plant cell, a plant tissue or a seed of a plant;
  - b. regenerating a transgenic plant from the plant cell, the plant tissue or the seed of the plant wherein said transgenic plant produces branched fatty acids; and
  - c. recovering said branched fatty acids from said transgenic plant.

- D2
8. (Thrice Amended) The process according to Claim 1, wherein the plant cell further comprises a recombinant nucleic acid coding for an S-adenosyl methionine synthetase.

- D3
12. (Twice Amended) A recombinant nucleic acid comprising :
- a nucleic acid coding for a methyl transferase,
  - a plant expressible promoter, and, a 3' transcription termination region.

13. (Twice Amended) The nucleic acid according to Claim 12, wherein the promoter expresses the nucleic acid in a seed of a plant.

- D4
16. (Thrice Amended) The recombinant nucleic acid according to Claim 12, wherein said nucleic acid further comprises a nucleic acid coding for a S-adenosyl methionine synthetase.

- D5
18. (Thrice Amended) A plant cell comprising a recombinant nucleic acid according to Claim 12.

Please add the following new Claims 32-34:

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-- 32. (New) The nucleic acid according to Claim 12, wherein the plant expressible promoter is a nopaline synthase promoter region (nos) or an octopine synthase promoter region (ocp) or a mannopine promoter region or a agropine promoter region or an acyl carrier protein promoter region (ACP). --

*Do* -- 33. (New) The nucleic acid according to Claim 12, wherein the plant expressible promoter is an acyl carrier protein promoter region (ACP) or a napine promoter. --

-- 34. (New) The nucleic acid according to Claim 12, wherein the plant expressible promoter is a promoter of a 35S cauliflower mosaic virus gene or a promoter of a 19S cauliflower mosaic virus gene.

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